

CONNECTICUT EMS VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, a COMMITTEE OF THE CT EMS ADVISORY BOARD
DRAFT (2) **Minutes** 5/15/2012 Held at Winsted Ambulance Association 655 Main Street Winsted, CT

Attendance: S. Kosciusko, J. Paretzky, P. Heavin, D. Angell, C. Clement, R. McKeon, W. Minacci, S. Mudge & B. Ziegler.
Guests: S. Guan, M. Thurnau, R. Dillon, K. Peterson, V. Wheeler, J. Keller and S. Gelati

1840: Introduction to Winsted Ambulance Association by Debbie Angell and Mary Thurnau.
The service was formed in 1968 and functions at the AEMT level service running about 1,600 calls per year. The service has a paid staff of three employees, and a volunteer roster of 120 volunteers, including Explorers at the EMR level. It bills for transports and contracts with a commercial firm for Paramedic coverage. It handles many mutual aid calls for area services as needed.

1905: Meeting called to order by Chair Jay B. Paretzky
Draft minutes for 3/12/2012 at Westport Volunteer EMS, in Westport were **APPROVED**

Chair report

Discussion about the status of the AEMT level of certification in the State with the Chair reporting that the CT EMS Advisory Board voted again at the May 9, 2012 meeting to support CEMSMAC'S recommendation to:

- Not support the adoption of the 2007 AEMT National Scope of Practice Model in the State of Connecticut
- To support cessation of courses for initial certification of the National Standard of the National Standard Curriculum- Intermediate/1985.
- That the current CT AEMT Certification as described by the National Standard Curriculum Intermediate/1985 should be phased out by July, 2013

The Chair reported the vote on CEMSMAC's recommendations had to be taken again, since the April meeting of the Board was not posted at least 24 hours before the meeting, as required by the FOI. The vote was 14 yes, 2 no's and 3 abstentions. Therefore the Chair of the Advisory Board will notify the Commissioner of Public Health about this vote, to eliminate the AEMT level of certification as of 6/30/2013.

Both Art Groux, Chief of Service for Suffield EMS and Annie Kosciusko from West Cornwall V FD/EMS spoke in support of having the AEMT level of certification in the State.

Jay B. Paretzky speaking as an AEMT and Chair of the Volunteer Committee asked the Board to postpone the vote on CEMSMAC's recommendation for ninety days and have a task force look into alternatives for keeping a level of certification between the EMT and Paramedic levels. Most other States have some level of certification between EMT and Paramedic. This suggestion was not considered by the Board.

The Chair also reported on other activities of the Board:

- Michelle Connelly hired as the new Region One Coordinator
- Trauma Triage Guidelines- Approved
- Tourniquet Guidelines submitted by Education and Training. To CEMSMAC for comments and approval
- Ad Hoc Committee of the Board charged with continuing working for funding for EMS in the State
- The Ad Hoc Committee reported some Legislators supported a funding program for EMS in CT
- EMS Week 5/21 with State-wide awards being given out in Hartford by CORC
- Legislative issues- the Board did not support the original Bill 5526 that reduced the Board membership from 41 members to 13, the Ad Hoc and Legislative Committees with the approval of the Board submitted changes that would not give a Volunteer from EMS, a voting position on the new Board.

Discussion followed about how the Volunteer EMS community can best have a central place to discuss issues and take action to improve EMS in the State. The Chair reported that there is a group working on an EMS Chiefs organization that would have the ability to lobby.

Motion: That any EMS Advisory Board allow for a minimum of one Volunteer EMS representative have a voting position on such Board- VOTE APPROVED unanimously.

Motion: To explore the formation of a CT EMS Association to represent all those working or volunteering in EMS and to advise the Commissioner directly on the issues as needed. VOTE APPROVED unanimously.

The Chair was charged with starting to see what needs to be done to establish such an association and report back to the Committee.

Phil Heavin spoke about not enough support from the hospitals, Doctors and the State to continue with a level of certification between the EMT and a Paramedic.

The Chair also discussed issues with the National Scope of Practice for the AEMT and the length and depth of the training required. The National Registry will only test to the new AEMT as of April 1st, 2013.

Discussion followed with both Committee members and guests expressing their concern with the actions of the Board, CEMSMAC and OEMS with the AEMT program. Many spoke out about moving to the new AEMT level over several years, as other States are doing. Motion for meet with the Commissioner to discuss the AEMT level and the Chairs request to the Board to postpone any discussion on the elimination of the AEMT level for 90 days and have a task force look in what other States are doing for some level of care between the EMT and Paramedic levels.

Motion: APPROVED unanimously

The Chair will contact the Commissioner for scheduling the meeting and will keep the Committee members advised accordingly.

OEMS report given by the Chair

Data collection continues with 15 services not submitting data as required by regulation and have the possibility of losing their license/certification to function as an EMS organization. OEMS has been working with the services for several years to assist them, but some services do not want to submit the data as required.

On going work on Community Paramedic program by OEMS

OP Sail in New London July, 2012

New Business: Red reported on several federal bills HB 7637, 933 and Senate 911 and 933 that provides funds for both Fire and EMS organizations.

Meeting schedule: June 11 at Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Corps Location: Edmond Town Hall 45 Main Street
Newtown 06470 in the Alexandria Room (which is the big room at the front of the building on the 2nd floor)
September 10 and November 12 Locations are needed for these meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 2020

Jay B. Paretzky Chair CT EMS Volunteer Committee, a Committee of the CT EMS Advisory Board

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